

LOOMIS VINDICATED YET REPRIMANDED

President Disposes of Asphalt Scandal Case.

MINISTER BOWEN DROPPED

Hunted Up Gossip Until It Became a Monomania, Declares the Chief Executive.

Dismissal and severe censure for Herbert W. Bowen, minister to Venezuela, exoneration for Mr. Loomis, accompanied by a report of indiscretions, is the outcome of the Bowen-Loomis controversy.

President Roosevelt, in approving the findings in Secretary Taft's report, scathingly arraigns Minister Bowen, declaring that Mr. Bowen asked one of his witnesses to enter the employ of a certain company for the purpose, "in plain words, of stealing" documents which he hoped might incriminate Mr. Loomis, and that Mr. Bowen has "evidently for many months, indeed, for the last two years, devoted himself" to hunting up scandal and gossip until it became a monomania, and caused him to show complete disloyalty to the country he represented.

Censure for Loomis.

Mr. Loomis did not escape entirely. Secretary Taft in his review of the case, in which the President concurred, said: "I cannot say, because I do not think that the record of Mr. Loomis as minister in Venezuela, as shown in his record, is such as to disqualify him from service as minister in the diplomatic service in the United States, but I sincerely hope that his bitter experience in this case makes it unnecessary further to point the moral that one who occupies the position of minister of the United States cannot afford, in any country to which he is appointed, in which business enterprises must more or less be affected by government favor and concession, to make personal investments of any sort or to leave the slightest doubt in the mind of any person that he is acting in the absence of all personal interests in any matters which he may bring before the government to which he is accredited." In his review of Secretary Taft's report President Roosevelt starts off with the assertion that "I agree with all your findings and conclusions regarding Mr. Loomis and have nothing to add thereto."

Bowen to Taft, "My Dear Bill"

The President then proceeds to consider the case as it affects Mr. Bowen through Mr. Loomis' countercharges. He then goes on to comment on Mr. Bowen's statement that he never made "charges" against Mr. Loomis. This "charges" in the President's opinion, is a mere matter of terminology. He quotes a letter from Mr. Bowen to Secretary Taft beginning "My Dear Bill," and signed "Herbert," to show that Mr. Bowen sent copies of papers to Mr. Taft in order that the latter might be "fully informed as to the terrible scandal in the situation," at Caracas. The President also quotes a telegram to Mr. Bowen containing statements reflecting on Mr. Loomis and to a letter from Mr. Bowen to Secretary Taft, written last February, in which Mr. Bowen expresses the belief that a check and a letter incriminating Mr. Loomis, and which the President says were "wholly fictitious," were in the hands of Francisco Castro, of Venezuela, who, because he had them, was not afraid to refuse to arbitrate the asphalt case with the United States. The President also quotes a statement of Mr. Bowen that he had submitted documents to the State Department for its information. In one letter Mr. Bowen spoke of having submitted documents with reference to Mr. Loomis to the State Department and to the fact that a year had passed without action upon them by Secretary Hay, "which," comments the President, "by implication at least, looks as if Mr. Bowen were accusing Mr. Hay also of misconduct."

The President makes other references to statements of Mr. Bowen to show that he actually did prefer the charges which he asserted he merely sent to the State Department for its information. In one letter Mr. Bowen spoke of having submitted documents with reference to Mr. Loomis to the State Department and to the fact that a year had passed without action upon them by Secretary Hay, "which," comments the President, "by implication at least, looks as if Mr. Bowen were accusing Mr. Hay also of misconduct."

The President also quotes a statement of Mr. Bowen that he was justified in securing the publication of the newspaper attack on Mr. Loomis and that he did so because Mr. Loomis "seemed likely to bring still further disgrace on our Government." The President likewise includes in his review this excerpt from a statement by Mr. Bowen: "If the newspaper representatives were influenced by me I was justified in trying to influence them, because Mr. Loomis was dishonest while minister at Caracas and as Assistant Secretary of State was guilty of a series of misdeeds which he had authorized me to make with the Venezuelan government, and because he deceived the government and continued to deceive the government and people of the United States." "It is distinguished by the fact," says the President, "and at the same time, in that he has made no charges against Mr. Loomis. Moreover, it is quite impossible that Mr. Bowen can believe that the cablegram signed by Mr. Loomis as Acting Secretary of State, which he calls a protocol, really proves that Mr. Loomis was guilty of abrogating the agreement between President Roosevelt and Mr. Hay had authorized me to make with the Venezuelan government."

"Mr. Bowen's statement is shown to be absolutely untrue by the statement of the solicitor of the Department of State, Mr. Penfield, who is a member of fact, the Loomis cable in question was sent by direction of Mr. Hay."

Mr. Bowen's allegation on this point is in reality a charge against Mr. Hay rather than a charge against Mr. Loomis.

Excuse Made It Worse.

The President followed his quotation of testimony regarding the investigation by Bowen of newspaper attacks on Loomis with extracts from a letter from Mr. Bowen in which the latter justified his action in giving the newspaper cor-

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NONAGENARIAN WAS AT WORK UNTIL A MONTH AGO



WILLIAM W. DEAN.

Appointed Clerk in the Treasury by William P. Fessenden in 1865—Born in New York April 19, 1812.

OLDEST CLERK DIES, AGED NINETY-THREE

William W. Dean Succumbs After a Service of Thirty Years in the Pulpit and Forty-two in the Treasury Department.

News was received at the Treasury Department yesterday of the death of William W. Dean, the oldest employee of the department, and perhaps one of the oldest in the Government service. Mr. Dean died in Auburn, N. Y., where he had gone a month or so ago.

The deceased was ninety-three years old, having been born at the outbreak of the war of 1812 in Rochester. When a boy he became a member of the Universalist Church, and was ordained a minister when twenty-one years of age. In 1863, after thirty years in the pulpit, he accepted a position as clerk in the Treasury Department. The records of the Treasury show that up to a month ago he never took a day from his post on account of sickness. His record in this respect is a most remarkable one. The burial will take place in Rochester, where he has a son who is a practicing lawyer.

respondents his version of the charges, and to this the President adds: "Mr. Bowen's excuse for this conduct, so far as it can be made out, seems to be that he expected the newspaper men to keep his connection with the charges secret. In other words, he apparently regards his case as improved that he secured this attack upon his official chief in a furtive and underhand manner, and that he did not intend that his charges should be made public." "Of course, such conduct is inexcusable, and shows Mr. Bowen's entire unfitness to remain in the diplomatic service, without regard to whether the charges he has made against Mr. Loomis are true or not. Mr. Bowen's conduct would be unpardonable. Inasmuch as Mr. Taft's careful investigation of the charges shows them to be false, his attitude appears in an even worse light, but it must be kept in mind that his unfitness for the service is clearly established by his own conduct, without any reference to the question of Mr. Loomis' actions. The Department of State has explicitly forbidden just such conduct in a general circular issued over three years ago."

An Instigator of Gossip.

The President maintains that Mr. Bowen was evidently one of the main sources from which gossip in Caracas injurious to Mr. Loomis originated. He says Mr. Bowen "tried to tamper with the cable operator through our consul at La Guayra, Mr. Goldschmidt, in order to secure what he hoped would be incriminating telegrams against Mr. Loomis," and he quotes Mr. Goldschmidt as saying, "It would be dishonorable to do what you ask of me," and also that "Mr. Bowen never lost an opportunity to belittle Mr. Loomis' character, ability, etc., when he spoke to me of him, and seemed to bear an extraordinary animus against his predecessor."

Continuing the President says: "Mr. Bowen asked one of the men he himself produced as a witness, Senor

Pastor, to enter into the employ of a certain company for the purpose of obtaining (in plain words, of stealing) documents which he hoped might incriminate Mr. Loomis. He has evidently for many months, indeed for the last two years, devoted himself to hunting up every piece of scandal or gossip of which he could get hold, and he has been a chief in a furtive and underhand manner, and that he did not intend that his charges should be made public."

"It was his duty to make known to his superior officers any facts reflecting on the honesty of Mr. Loomis, or any other official, but it was a breach of his duty to make loose and reckless charges, and especially to give these charges public currency after their submission for investigation by the department."

Country's Interests Damaged.
"Mr. Bowen's conduct is especially reprehensible because of the damage it has undoubtedly done to the interests of this country."

"Mr. Bowen has been in the consular and diplomatic service; during much of that time he has done good work, and until recently I had hoped to promote him. If I could condone his misconduct in this case I would gladly do so; but his usefulness in the diplomatic service is at an end. I do not desire to punish him. Save for the great risk to the service, which would be involved in his retention, I would be willing to let his misconduct go unpunished save by a severe admonition. But I feel that it is impossible to retain him without exposing the interests of the Government to a risk so great that it cannot justifiably be incurred. Accordingly I would direct that his resignation be requested were it not for the statement made on his behalf, in your presence, and in my charge, that he would consider a resignation an admission of misconduct. Accordingly I direct that he be dismissed from the service."

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SWARTZELL WAS SILENT SPECTATOR

He Looked in Upon Class Night Exercises.

ONLY FEW DISCERNED HIM

Program Proves Successful Without Usual Address From Principal of Eastern High School.

In the midst of the class day exercises at the Eastern High School last night, Principal Swartzell came down the corridor leading to the hall and stood for a few minutes in the doorway, a silent spectator. He did not enter, but left the building quickly.

Mr. Swartzell was on the program to make the faculty speech, but some days ago informed the committee in charge that it would be impossible for him to be present on account of a previous engagement. When President Clark C. Burritt called the meeting together last night, two things went to make it one of the most famous class days ever held at Eastern High School, or any other high school in the District of Columbia. It is always the custom for the principal to be present to make the faculty address. This custom has never been disregarded except in rare cases. But Principal Swartzell was not present. Having made it known that he had a "previous engagement" which he could not break.

School Officials There.
Seated upon the platform, however, were the three most important high school officials in the District of Columbia. They were President J. Holdsworth Gordon, of the Board of Education; Superintendent of Public Schools Stuart, and Percy Hughes, Director of High Schools. Never before has such a thing happened at a high school class day, and it is pretty well known that such a thing would never have occurred had Principal Swartzell accepted the invitation of the class and made the address.

The young graduates did not wish to hold their last meeting without some recognition from their superiors, and influences were brought to bear upon Messrs. Gordon, Stuart and Hughes to prevent the presence of the principal. It is expected to do much toward bringing about a settlement of the troubles at Eastern.

Swartzell Silent Spectator.
It was close on to 10 o'clock when the boys and girls were paying strict attention to the program, Principal Swartzell entered the building, walked down the corridor to the hall and stood in the shadows watching the proceedings. He did not make himself known, and it is doubtful if more than half a dozen students knew of his presence. He nodded to one or two of the boys in the hall, and after listening for a few minutes, went down to his private office and then returned.

Throughout the entire program there was a decided strain. Like a powder train, it only needed a spark to cause an explosion. The greatest discretion was exercised by the various speakers, prophets and poets, and only once or twice was the name of the principal mentioned. In his opening address, President Burritt made no mention of

the slight given the class by Mr. Swartzell, and when he came to the number on the program calling for an address by the principal, he merely stated that owing to a previous engagement it would be impossible for Mr. Swartzell to be present. "But we have one present," he added, "who will recompense somewhat the absence of the principal," and he introduced Director Hughes.

Mr. Stuart Speaks.
Mr. Gordon followed Mr. Hughes and made a short speech. Superintendent Stuart told the students how he had watched them grow from little boys and girls to young men and women, and wound up by saying that his "heart was still with the old Eastern."

The three school officials were vigorously applauded all through their remarks. C. C. Dunnirton, class historian, had the hardest task of the evening perhaps. It was his duty to read the history of the class from beginning to end. The difficulty with Principal Swartzell was one of the big events of the class history, yet this young diplomat wrote a good history and yet left this unpleasant incident out of it. He pictured in glowing colors the winning of the competitive drill by the Company F, but he left untouched the more important issue growing out of it.

Other interesting numbers on the program were the reading of the class poem by Miss Vera Adams, the address to the undergraduates by Miss Janie Frost, and reply by D. B. Priest, the prophesies of the various sections, and two or three musical selections.

Officers and Members.
The officers of the class are: Clark C. Burritt, president; Miss Nellie E. Besseville, vice president; Miss Edith A. Conover, secretary, and Cadet Frank H. Lincoln, treasurer.

Board Expects to Probe Eastern High School Row

It is now practically decided that the Board of Education will probe to the bottom the situation at the Eastern High School, as it affects the efficiency and standing of Moseheim Swartzell, principal of the school.

Whether the board will take the matter up this summer or let it go over until the fall is not yet determined. At present the board is taken up with the business incident to the closing of the schools, but it is more than probable that it will be investigated within the next few weeks.

As for the boys, no punishment will be meted out. "They held their class night last evening," said Superintendent of Schools Stuart this morning to a Times reporter, "and a very pleasant and, to them, creditable evening was spent. I think that in many ways the graduating class is to be congratulated for its bearing in the whole matter. The incident is closed so far as the boys are concerned."

Stuart Praises Class.
Mr. Stuart also warmly praised the conduct of C. C. Burritt, president of the graduating class, who has done all in his power to straighten things out at his alma mater.

Tomorrow or the next day a delegation from the class will ask to be received by the Board of Education so that they can recommend that Mr. Padgett, a teacher at Eastern High, be made principal of the school "in case a vacancy in the position occurs."

It is thought that the inquiry by the board will follow some recommendation or action on the part of Director of High Schools Hughes. At present Mr. Hughes refuses to discuss the matter, but it is known that he has in his hands a mass of testimony taken from the boys concerning the disturbances at the school.

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